

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18797 030813Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 /021 W
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P R 030740Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7074
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18797

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM FROM HALL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJECT: IRAN - F-27

REF: STATE 160748

1. IN PHONE CONVERSATION WITH AIR ASIA ("E" SYSTEMS) POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT THEY CAN OBTAIN INBOUND CLEARANCE INTO ROC FOR BAF F-27 WITHOUT USG INVOLVEMENT.

2. THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR IRAN; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT COST EFFECTIVE AND IRAN COSTS MAY OUTWEIGH VALUE OF AIRCRAFT DUE TO HIGH MAN-HOUR RATES OTHER LOCATIONS.

3. FINAL DECISION MUST AWAIT MY RETURN TO RANGOON AND DISCUSSIONS WITH BAF OFFICIALS. THIS MAY RESULT IN SCRAPPING F-27 AS UNECONOMICAL TO REPAIR.

4. PER PARA 2 (A), REFTEL COST ESTIMATES--AN IRAN IS A
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LABOR INTENSIVE OPERATION. THERE IS ALSO A LEARNING CURVE. AIR ASIA HAS THE EXPERIENCE AND MY ESTIMATE FOR THE IRAN IS 10,000 - 15,000 MANHOURS, PLUS OVERHAUL OF 59 COMPONENTS AT AIR ASIA FACILITIES. OUR CURRENT CONTRACT WITH THEM IS BASED ON AN OVERALL HOURLY SKILLED LABOR RATE, NEGOTIATED BY DOD FOR THE USAF AND USN, WHICH IS NOW \$6.88.

5. LOCKHEED AIR SERVICES, SINGAPORE (LASS) REPORTS THAT THEY CAN PERFORM THE IRAN. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH THE F-27, NO SPARE PARTS, LIMITED COMPONENT OVERHAUL CAPABILITY, AND NO SPECIAL TOOLS. THEIR MANHOUR RATE IS APPROXIMATELY \$12 - \$15. WITHOUT THE LEARNING CURVE THE (LASS) IRAN COULD POSSIBLY RESULT IN 20 - 25,000 MANHOURS AND THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE F-27 WOULD BE STANDARDIZED WITH THE FH-227'S.

6. HONG KONG AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING COMPANY (HAEC) HAS THE CAPABILITY, BUT NOT THE CAPACITY, FOR THE IRAN. THEIR MANHOUR RATE IS \$11.50 AND THEY ARE NOT A US FIRM.

7. PARA 2 (C) REFTTEL - ALL OF THE ABOVE.

8. PARA 2 (B) REFTTEL - FERRY FLIGHT.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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